

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

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I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 concerning the *limited hours to the Tethering of Dogs and appropriate shelter requirements in harsh weather*.

I am a registered voter in the Town of Burlington, and I have been the Municipal Animal Control Officer in Farmington for over twenty years. During these twenty years I have witnessed the results of dogs being tethered 24/7 and the lonely and neglected life that they are confined to.

I have responded to cases involving dogs restrained with an out grown collar that became embedded into the neck, weighted chain collars meant to "help build a stronger neck and chest muscles", dogs exposed to extreme heat and extreme cold because of lack of proper shelter, food and water, all while being tethered.

There have also been puppies and dogs that were left unattended while tied to a porch that resulted in being choked and strangled to death as they hung off a stairway or deck.

I have witnessed dogs tethered with chains or cables that became tightly wrapped around a paw or leg causing extreme pain and injury while they yelp unattended.

All these poor dogs and puppies were subjected to being tethered every day in solitary.

Because of the current statute language I have been limited on the improvements that could be enforced. These dogs remain in an inadequate and isolated existence.

Please support HB 5844 so that all Animal Control Officers in Connecticut have the jurisdiction to monitor and help the tethered dogs in our towns and cities. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and I ask that you strongly support this important legislation.

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